

Anne Fesh

From: Donald, Anne [Anne.Donald@med.va.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2000 3:35 PM
To: 'info@acb.org'
Subject: Docket no. 99-339 (re: FCC)

Anne B. Donald
505 Cypress Point Dr. #45
Mountain View, CA 94043

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

11/2/00

RE: Docket No. 99-339
Comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported
order on video description.

Please uphold the July 21st ruling of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on providing video description for television programming. As a blind rehabilitation therapist, I know how much the visually impaired persons with whom I work appreciate the audiodescription they have experienced at audio-described theatre shows or on audiodescriberd video-tapes during their rehabilitation program at the Western Blind Rehabilitation Center. I believe that, just as the hearing impaired have closed captioning, so should persons with sight loss also have access to television audio-description be available to the blind and visually impaired.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for your courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired. Please stick by your decision and do not bow to the petitioners among whom are the TV, cable, and motion picture industry associations.

Sincerely,

Anne B. Donald

1587 38th Avenue
San Francisco, California
November 9, 2000

Mafalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street., SW
Washington, DC 20554
Document No. 99-339

To the Members of the FCC:

Thank you, Commissioners, for your sensitivity to the needs of blind and visually impaired persons as shown in your vote last July to require, by April, 2002, some audio-described programs on television. I know that taking this position was a proof of courage, since businesses are rarely willing to extend themselves in this direction.

I write "in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description." It is my understanding that such reconsiderations are appropriate only when new evidence is to be put forward--evidence which might affect the original decision reached by the FCC Commissioners. It is also my understanding that the petitioners have not advanced any information of this kind. My hope, therefore, is that their effort to interfere with audio description for blind and visually impaired persons will be defeated.

We speak a lot these days about families sharing in activities. The blind individual sitting in the living room with his/her family has two options: He either annoys the rest of the family by incessant questions about what the screen is showing, or he gives up, leaves the room, and goes off by himself to read a braille book or one on tape. He has no part in the discussion or laughter coming from the living room. Such behavior should not be forced upon him just because the television, cable, and movie industries do not wish to make the effort to accommodate his needs.

I am confident that you will give this matter serious thought.

Sincerely,

Winifred Downing □

Margie Sains, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

OFFICIAL FILINGS
NOVEMBER 5, 2000

Commissioners of the F C C,

I am writing this letter to you for several reasons. The first being to extend my sincere appreciation to all the Commissioners of the F C C for their vote requiring the networks to begin providing the extremely necessary and essential service to all people who are vision impaired and blind and who still enjoy the entertainment and essential information that television gives.

I have been enjoying narrated movies for years now since I really can't perceive whats going on without it Or someone talking me thru it thus eliminating me going to the movies anymore . My children are now grown and gone so unless its news time or court I really don't even turn on t.v. at all. There are too many shows that are action packed and unless one has reasonably good vision it is impossible to tell what it is going on. Since I heard of the news concerning the descriptive video in April of 2000 I have been ecstatic

Last but certainly not least I want to submit my comments concerning DOCKET NO. 99-339.

I am in total and complete" IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION".

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully
Susan Dunham

DENYSE J. EDDY
1620 Mayflower Court B-122
Winter Park, Florida 32792-2567

November 7, 2000

M. Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Magalie Salas:

I want to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind or visually impaired.

It is so important for anyone who cannot see the television screen to have an alternate means like the video description to know what is happening on the television. In fact, there are too many stations that give stock market reports, sport reports and lottery reports only visually which is most frustrating. I have been so looking forward to turning on my television in April, 2002 to be able to enjoy the television shows utilizing the video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programming.

We have heard there is a Petition for Reconsideration and do not understand why. There is nothing to indicate a new factor to reconsider the decision so why retract it!

Please consider this letter as comments **IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION.**

Very truly yours,

Denyse J. Eddy

Anne Fesh

From: rita eggert [ritamae1@mindspring.com]
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2000 9:49 AM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: docket 99-399

1100 East Avenue, Apt. 4C
Rochester, New York 14607-2345
November 3, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket no. 99-339

I am writing to express my concern about the petitions which have recently been submitted in opposition to the FCC ruling of last July which will introduce Descriptive Video into television programming effective April 2002.

As a totally blind citizen of this country, I appreciate the insightfulness, courage and strategy which the FCC used in making this ruling. As our citizens who are in their middle years age, they will desire and expect to continue watching television for information and entertainment. As they age, their vision will most likely be the sense that weakens first and the descriptive video offers them the opportunity to continue appreciating their televisions.

Those who speak out in opposition to 99-399, should be reminded that the technology already exists to create descriptive Video, this service will not interfere with the creative license, integrity or original intent of the programming.

I urge you to discount these naysayers as uninformed and misdirected purists.

I look forward to the addition of Descriptive Video to my television viewing in April 2002. Again thank you.

A concerned American,

Rita S. Eggert

110-11 Queens Blvd.
Forest Hills, N. Y. 11375
Nov. 7, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing in opposition to Petitioners For
Reconsideration Of The Reported Order On Video
Description Docket No. 99-339.

I want to thank the Commissioners of the FCC
for their courageous vote requiring the TV networks
to begin providing video description.

As a totally blind person who cannot see the
screen, I miss any information which is visual and
not mentioned in the dialogue. As TV has
become more and more visually oriented, TV
programs have become less and less enjoyable
for me, although I used to love television when
I could follow it. Programs on Public Television
and Broadway plays with audio description are enjoyable
to me. When I know what is happening, I can laugh
and cry with everyone else.

Since audio description is so crucial to
enjoyment of TV shows for blind people, and since
the petitioners have not provided any new information
which was not already known at the time the FCC
reached its decision and issued the ruling regarding
audio description, I urge you PLEASE not to
reconsider or recind this ruling!

Yours truly,


Karen Eisenstadt

Anne Fesh

From: Carol Ewing [cewing@isat.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 9:58 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: FCC docket No 99-339

Charles, it was my pleasure to meet you at the Nevada Council of the Blind convention in Las Vegas NV. Here is a copy of my letter in response to the action alert. Carol Ann

2127 Hallston Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89134
November 1, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 99-339

The following comments are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

I thank you for the foresight you demonstrated with the July 21st ruling to provide video description for television programming in the future. I look forward to the time when television is as important to me as it was from 1948 to 1991, when I was sighted and it provided not only entertainment but education. The description via the ear rather than the eye will allow me to know what is happening. Your decision for description will provide continued education to not only the blind population but also to those folks who are not sure what is going on nor what is intended for the viewer to glean from the presentation.

May I suggest you take the time to view a movie or program twice and under a controlled environment. For each viewing close or cover the eyes. Let the first presentation be a regular "sighted folks" version and the second presentation be a "video description" version. Once you have experienced this, I think you will realize your decision to provide description is a great and wonderful service allowing continued education to a degree one cannot imagine nor measure. The movie "Shindler's List" was video described by its producer as a service to the community who has thanked Stephen Spielberg more than once. My sighted friends, who are educated, viewed the movie a few weeks before I shared the video described one and they were in awe of the understanding the description gave them. My video described "The Hunt for Red October" movie has also been shared with many sighted folk. One last experience: I shared "Mary Poppins" with a totally blind 8-year-old boy, after which he asked, "Ms. Ewing, what is a plaid coat?"

I am sure you realize the efforts from the petitioners have provided no new knowledge, thought or information to you than when your decision in favor of video description was reached. I encourage you to hold fast to your decision in that the enhancement of communication will reinforce the Mission Statement and Purpose of the FCC. The gift to have a level of awareness raised is an exciting gift, one most appreciated, one you are in the process of providing. And I

Thank You,

Carol Ann Ewing

Anne Fesh

From: Celia Fagnani [cfagnani@altoona.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 8:31 AM
To: ACB National Office
Subject: Descriptive Video

Celia Fagnani
413 58th Street
Altoona, PA 16602-1120
Phone: (814) 941-3600
Fax: (814) 940-0465
E-mail: cfagnani@altoona.com

November 1, 2000

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND
1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 1004
Washington,, DC 20005

To Whom It May Concern,

I appreciate the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description which is an essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired. For me and other blind and visually impaired people it is very important to have an alternate means (i.e., video description) for knowing what's happening on the television screen. I have really enjoyed video description when I've been able to access it and have been looking forward to turning on my TV set in April, 2002, to enjoy television shows with my family and friends and to use the video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programming.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming the value of video description and pointing out that the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling on Docket No. 99-339. I am submitting comments "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER on Video Description.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Celia Fagnani
Voice: 814-941-3600
FAX: 814-940-0465

Anne Fesh

From: Joseph Fagnani [jfagnani@altoona.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 6:40 PM
To: ACB National Office
Subject: Video Description

Joseph Fagnani
413 58th Street
Altoona, PA 16602-1120
Phone: (814) 940-0270
Fax: (814) 940-0465
E-mail: jfagnani@altoona.com
November 1, 2000

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND
1155 151h Street, NW, Suite 1004
Washington,, DC 20005

To Whom It May Concern,

I appreciate the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description which is an essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired. For me and other blind and visually impaired people it is very important to have an alternate means (i.e., video description) for knowing what's happening on the television screen. I have really enjoyed video description when I've been able to access it and have been looking forward to turning on my TV set in April, 2002, to enjoy television shows with my family and friends and to use the video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programming.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming the value of video description and pointing out that the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling on Docket No. 99-339. I am submitting comments "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER on Video Description.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joseph Fagnani
PHONE: 814-940-0270
FAX: 814-940-0465
WEB SITE: <http://www.lazerlink.com/~jfagnani/index.htm>

Anne Fesh

From: Fanelle, Donna (MCB) (Donna Fanelle) [Donna.Fanelle@state.ma.us]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2000 4:48 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Descriptive Video Services comments

65 Bradshaw Street
Medford, MA 02155-4846
November 6, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Magalie:

I am writing to submit comments "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION". The Docket No. is 99-339.

I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous July vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired. I am a totally blind person who has had the privilege of watching several movies with video description. I cannot tell you how much it has enhanced my viewing of visual aspects of the films. Prior to video description, I would have to rely on friends or family to describe action in parts where there was no dialogue. Many a time I was left to only wonder or guess.

With video description, I am able to receive the information seen by my sighted peers.

With descriptive video service (DVS), I have a greater appreciation and understanding of the movie or television program content. I am pleased that public broadcasting has made several of its programs available through DVS.

I am really looking forward to having this same service available through the means of commercial and cable television. We as blind persons are entitled to the same information that the general public sees.

This includes weather alerts or emergency advisories.

I also hope that advertisers of products will include audio telephone number announcements of what is displayed on the screen.

I look forward to the day when I will be able to watch comedies, dramas and movies with video description. Since broadcasters have provided "closed captioning" for the deaf, I thank the FCC for recognizing that those of us with a visual disability deserve similar access.

To date, the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known when the FCC reached its July, 2000 ruling.

Thank you once again for your support of video description services.

Sincerely,

Donna Fanelle

Anne Fesh

From: MO Council of the Blind [moblind@primary.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 11:12 AM
To: access@fcc.gov; ACB
Subject: MM Docket #99-339

-----Original Message-----

From: MO Council of the Blind <moblind@primary.net>
To: access@fcc.gov <access@fcc.gov>; info@abc.org
<info@abc.org>
Cc: Chip Hailey <chailey4@ipa.net>
Date: Monday, November 06, 2000 3:35 PM
Subject: Support video description and appreciation of July
21 vote.

November 06, 2000

Ms. Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas,

I am writing to express our support for Descriptive Video Service. We are a membership organization representing 750 persons who are blind and visually impaired within the state of Missouri. We truly appreciate the FCC's July vote. We urge no changes be excepted. We would like to see the ruling of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) stand firm and continue forward.

Sincerely,

Lucille Fierce
Education and Welfare Chairperson

Missouri Council of the Blind
moblind@primary.net
www.acb.org/mocb/

Anne Fesh

From: ktfigueroa [ktfigueroa@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 9:33 PM
To: ACCESS@FCC.GOV
Cc: INFO@ACB.ORG
Subject: comments on docket no. 99-339

Ted Figueroa
email: ktfigueroa@earthlink.net

Attn: FCC Commissioners,

I'm writing to express my appreciation for your courageous and insightful vote you took to implement video descriptive tv programming which will begin April 2002.

As a member of American Council of the Blind and of the blind community I want to let you know that it is very important for blind folks to have descriptive video tv programming in order to enjoy tv viewing to the fullest.

It is important to have an alternative means of accessing information on the tv screen.

I'm submitting these comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description, docket no 99-339.

Thanks,

Ted Figueroa

Anne Fesh

From: Sharon Fillion
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2000 11:09 AM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: 99-339
Re: Doc.no. 99-339

Gentlemen:

I'm writing this letter to inform you that I am in opposition to the petitioners for reconsideration of the reported on video description. As a blind citizen, I have found that the limited video description that is available now is very helpful in becoming a well informed person along with the rest of the population. I am strongly in favor of expanded use of video description services through the FCC.

Please count my letter as input on the opposition to the petitioners appeal to change 99-339.

Thank you,

Sharon A. Fillion
121 Pine View Circle
Agawam, Ma. 01001
order

11/7/2000

Anne Fesh

From: Cathy F [adventuress2000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 11, 2000 2:21 AM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION:

Regarding: Docket No. 99-339:

I would like to thank the Commissioners of the FCC for affirming the need for audio description for television programming on the twenty-first of July. This would allow visually impaired and blind viewers like myself to have access to essential information available over the air to their sighted peers.

I know from personal experience how invaluable this access is to those of us who cannot see a TV screen. I feel that this access should include everything from phone numbers and other product information on commercials to visual elements on a television show. As far as TV show video description is concerned, I find myself often wondering what is going on during segments of a show, like during chase scenes, without any dialog. Even on shows which generally provide enough dialog to follow a plot, like "Matlock", I have found that audio description greatly adds to my enjoyment and understanding of the episode. I have seen the same increase in comprehension and entertainment in audio described movies which I had previously seen without the benefit of action narration. I just cannot wait to experience that increased awareness on a regular basis. In April, 2002, I, too, will be able to enjoy a TV program and all its visual subtleties.

In conclusion, I cannot stress how important it is for blind viewers to have the SAME access to visual information as our sighted friends and family. I understand that the petitioners have not provided any information about this issue not already known by the FCC when the Commissioners reached their decision.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

C. Fischbach

Do You Yahoo!?
Thousands of Stores. Millions of Products. All in one Place.
<http://shopping.yahoo.com/>

Anne Fesh

From: Al F Biegler [albiegler1@juno.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 2:45 PM
To: info@acb.org

859 A Elliott Rd
Paradise, CA 95969
530 872-3434
Nov. 9, 2000

Magalie Salas Secretary:
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Sir:

This is reference to Docket No. 99-339. I am submitting my opinion in opposition to Petitioners on the groups who want to do away with the video Description for television programing.

I feel Descriptive Video is the best this that has ever happened for the Blind and Visually Impaired. My main experience has been with the Descriptive Video Service and some on channel nine here in our area. Channel nine is an educational station located in Redding Ca. I feel we need more descriptive services. I get rather tired having to ask what is happening during a silent part of a movie.

From my own view I find movies more enjoyable when they have description included. I feel it is the best thing that has ever happened for the blind and visually impaired community and I would encourage every blind and visually impaired person to try it. I feel we should have a right to enjoy movies along with everyone else and discriptive video gives us that right. This Federal Communication Commission ruling is a vital step in having television that is accessible for the blind and visually impaired citizens.

Please do not let the Television and Cable companies take this right away.

Sincerely,

Robert Fling

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<http://dl.www.juno.com/get/tagj>.

Apt. 1
2025 Bronson Blvd.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
October 30, 2000

American Council of the Blind
1155 Fifteenth Street, NW
Suite 1004
Washington, DC 20005

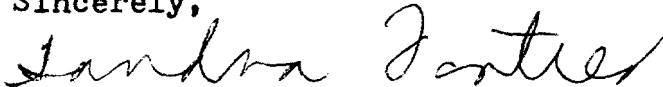
ATTN: CHARLES CRAWFORD, EXEC.
Director and Brian Charlson,
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Thank you so much for this Urgent Action Alert regarding the protection of the July 21st ruling by the FCC requiring television networks to begin providing video description to blind and/or visually impaired people.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I had written to the FCC supporting their July 21 ruling. I hope it will never die on the vine.

Again, thank you for the chance to write to FCC, supporting video description.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Fortier".

Sandra Fortier

Apt. 1
2025 Bronson Blvd. -
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
October 30, 2000

DOCKET NUMBER: 99-339

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:


I wish to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description service so essential to people who are blind and visually impaired.

Just imagine what it would be like to only rely on listening when movies or documentaries are shown on television. How much you would miss not seeing what people are wearing, buildings or landscapes portrayed in those movies or documentaries. Video description can only wholly fit all the pieces of the puzzle together. Video description at last enabled blind and visually-impaired to enjoy television!

The petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued its July 21, 2000 ruling. This is a crucial component of any petition to reconsider.

Please don't back down! Please stick with people like me in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. We need you in our corner!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sandra Fortier".

Sandra Fortier

Anne Fesh

From: John Fountain [jfountain@kiva.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 10:49 AM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Video Description

The following is a copy of letter sent to the FCC;

October 31, 2000

From:
John W. Fountain
2066 N Co Rd 50E
Paoli, IN 47454

To:
Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED
ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION

Docket No. 99-339

I appreciate the FCC's courageous vote requiring networks to begin providing essential information services to people who are blind and visually impaired. My daughter, who is totally blind, has had the opportunity to view certain videos that have been transcribed. This has opened a whole new concept for her to enjoy movies on the same basis as the rest of her family. I have told her that she will have the same capabilities afforded to her on television in the near future. For those who would benefit greatly, I encourage the FCC to remain steadfast with the decision that has been made.

I might also point out that the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time of the FCC ruling.

Sincerely,

John W. Fountain

Anne Fesh

From: RESAFREMED@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 11:11 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Re: Docket #99-339

Resa Fremed Ed.D.
4 Bouton St.
South Salem, NY 10590

The Federal Communications Commission
Magalie Salas, Secretary
445 12th ST. SW
Washington, DC

November 1, 2000

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Sirs:

We applaud your ruling requiring the television networks to video describe their programs. It would be so wonderful for our visually impaired friends to be able to watch television with their friends and family and understand the action that is taking place.

We are appalled that petitioners have asked the commission to reconsider its ruling, especially since they have not put forth any new information that was not known at the time the Federal Communications Commission made its decision.

For all the above reasons, we are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

Sincerely,

Resa Fremed, Ed.D.

ALABAMA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND
P. O. BOX 1213
TALLADEGA, AL. 35160

OCTOBER 31, 2000

MAGALIE SALAS, SECRETARY
THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
455 12TH STREET SW
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554
Docket NO. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas,

On behalf of the Alabama Council of the Blind, I want to express our appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote on July 21st requiring the television networks to begin providing essential information in an audio format to people who are blind and visually impaired. It is extremely important for those of us who cannot see the television screen to have an alternative means for knowing what action is taking place on the screen. Descriptive video will definitely meet this need.

Many of our members continue to enjoy the audio description of programs on PBS, and we look forward to April of 2002 when we can enjoy the same description on all of the television networks. Therefore, you can see why our organization is opposed to any reconsideration of the July 21st order.

Sincerely yours,
Van Fulghum, President

November 01, 2000

Ms. Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

Reference is made to Docket No. 99-339

The purpose of this letter is to submit comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on **VIDEO DESCRIPTION**.

I most emphatically support **video description** and wish to thank you for the vision of the new millennium as demonstrated by the Commission's July vote. Such responsiveness to the many visually impaired citizens of this country is sincerely appreciated.

I have been totally blind for over 50 years. During the first part of this time I have relied upon the help of my parents and others to describe to me what was on the TV screen. Now I find myself more and more listening to TV alone. Besides the entertainment content shown on TV, there is much important information, such as severe weather warnings, graphical presentations, and statistical data shown that I can not access. The content of many plays, comedies (where the joke in large part depends upon non-verbal communication) and sitcoms, are mainly lost. Potentially life saving warnings I am told appear in the corner of the TV screen, but I do not know the information they convey.

In the last several years, WGBH-TV has developed and perfected a system of **visual description** that has been used for some programs on Public Broadcast TV and a very limited number of Cable TV stations in conjunction with such programs as Masterpiece Theater, Mystery, Nature, and Scientific American Frontiers. Recently they have been joined by the Turner Classic Movie Network who airs described movies such as Casablanca and the Hunchback of Notre Dame. I do not think you (who are sighted) can even imagine the increased level of enjoyment I have found in listening these TV programs and better understanding the movies. But, they only are the "tip of the iceberg" that can be experienced if **video description** is more extensively used. Unfortunately nothing is gained without some expense and effort and the competition for sponsors does not permit expenditures that are not required. This logic also prevents public service warnings (like severe weather) from being described.

I applauded the Commission's action to require **video description** by April 2002 when I could more fully enjoy the entertainment, education, and public service offered by television. But, now this is threatened by petitioners that have not provided any new information that was not already known at the time the Commission reach its decision and issued its ruling in July. I most sincerely, and humbly, ask that the Commission reject the Petitions to Reconsider and thereby reaffirm its July ruling. This would be a giant step in helping not only me but all who are so impaired as to be unable to see the TV screen to enjoy and profit to the fullest the information and entertainment content required to be broadcast by the TV stations.

Thank you for considering my comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on **VIDEO DESCRIPTION**.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Barbara Z. Gardner
416 Sugar Maple Lane
Springdale, OH 45246
Phone: (513) 782-2668

Anne Fesh

From: Kathleen Gasper [kgasper@world.std.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 11:04 AM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: re: FCC Docket No. 99-339

Alfred Gasper
22 Myrtle St.
Watertown MA 02472
November 8, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

I would like to express my thanks for the FCC's original ruling in favor of descriptive video. I do not feel that there has been any new information to suggest that it not be implemented as voted on by the FCC.

I am a person with some vision and am able to see some of what is shown. I did not realize how much I was missing until I viewed a movie with DVS.

It is hard for me to understand how any consumer group for the blind could be in opposition to this technology that will make for enjoyment and information.

Again I urge the Commission to stay with their original and correct vote. Having DVS available on prime time and major networks will make for viewing on the same footing as all our family members.

Sincerely,
Alfred Gasper

Anne Fesh

From: Kathleen Gasper [kgasper@world.std.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 10:25 AM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: FCC Docket No. 99-330

Kathleen Gasper
22 Myrtle St.
Watertown MA 02472
November 9, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

As a totally blind person, I am incensed at the petition recently submitted to the FCC by various television industry entities and the National Federation of the Blind.

It was a long, hard, THOUGHTFUL decision that the FCC made back in July, mandating limited video description of some prime time shows, with priority given to emergency announcements to begin soon.

As nearly as I can see in reading these newly submitted petitions, there is no new information presented.

Until WGBH started doing some regular video description of their programming, I never knew exactly how much I was missing. For example, try watching one of PBS's prize winning "Nature" shows with a blindfold on. Not much fun, is it? It still excites me to think that I can watch such programs by myself without the usually insufficient descriptive attempts of family or friends.

I can't even begin to describe the thrill of watching "TITANIC" with description, which was the very first first run movie in a real theater, which everyone else takes for granted! The broadcast industry has had more than enough time to augment these mandated changes as the technology already exists.

I will never be able to understand a consumer organization fighting against something that will make life better for their consumers.

Please do not allow these wrong thinking groups to persuade you, the Commissioners, to overturn your original well thought out decision.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Gasper

Anne Fesh

From: Steven Gastreich [briansg@execpc.com]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2000 6:11 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Descriptive Video Letter.

11-06-00

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Docket No. 99-339

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this correspondence is to submit comments "in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description".

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Federal Communications Commission for this crucial and courageous vote in support of video description regarding network programming.

Since childhood, I have enjoyed many hours in front of the television. However, to enjoy these programs completely, I have to rely on family and friends to provide the visual details. Often, there are times when I watch television alone or with other blind friends. Unfortunately, in this case, the visual aspects are left to the imagination. Nothing is more frustrating than watching a favorite program or lengthy movie only to discover that questions regarding the outcome of the plot can only be answered by sight. In this case, all we can do as a blind community is long for the "Golden Days of Radio" when blind and sighted alike were on an equal playing field in obtaining all the information on a particular program.

So, I could not have been happier when I learned that both Hollywood movies and Public Television had begun using Descriptive Video Service "DVS". Because of this, I have appreciated true independence in experiencing programs that I choose to view. In learning about these advances, along with "Closed captioning" for deaf and hard of hearing viewers, I had hoped that Network Television's accommodation of Descriptive Video would not be far behind.

Now, I am eagerly waiting for April of 2002 when I can finally enjoy Network television the way I had always dreamed. I want to stress here that I feel that video description's importance should go further than simply the program being aired, but also when there is important information on the screen. How many times have I heard an announcer refer to "the number on your screen". Or, even more importantly, when there are important messages such weather warnings which are only accessible to sighted viewers. It is my hope that once again, like in the early days of radio, that in regarding television, we as a blind community will have equal access with our sighted counterparts.

Thank you again for this very important vote.

Sincerely,

Steven Gastreich

10727 W. Grantosa Dr.

Wauwatosa, WI 53222
(414) 464-1756

